

### **REMARKS**

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed February 7, 2006 ("the Action"). Claims 31-59 are pending in the application.

#### **A. Allowed and Allowable Claims**

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's statement in the Action that Claims 31-40, 44 and 48-59 are allowed.

The Action also states that Claims 42 and 45-47 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but recite allowable subject matter. Applicant has amended Claim 41 to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 42 (and canceled Claim 42). As such, Applicant submits that Claim 41 is in condition for allowance. Similarly, Claim 43 depends from amended Claim 41 and is also in condition for allowance.

Claim 45 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of base Claim 41 and, as such, is in condition for allowance. Claims 46-47 depend from Claim 45 and are also in condition for allowance.

#### **B. Claims 41 and 43**

The Action rejects Claims 41 and 43 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,328,033 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,743,250. Applicant respectfully disagrees but has amended Claim 41 as noted above, without prejudice, to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 42 in order to advance prosecution. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of Claims 41 and 43 in a future continuation application.

#### **C. Other**

Claim 53 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

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#### **D. Conclusion**

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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#### **CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 20, 2006.



Rosa Lee Brinson  
Date of Signature: April 20, 2006